

Offeror's return address

TO: SEE SPECIFIC ADDRESSES CITED BELOW

Solicitation No. DG1330-05-RP-1038

Closing Date: May 19, 2005

Closing Time: 12:00 PM local time

(b) HAND CARRIED OFFERS: Proposals hand carried must be delivered to the offices cited below (SEALED OFFERS ONLY). Hand carried offers must be delivered and contact must be made with the below offices by the date and time specified in this solicitation. Proposals received at the destination(s) after the date and time specified for receipt will be considered LATE and dealt with in accordance with the Late Proposals Provisions of paragraph (c)(3) of FAR 52.215-01, INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.

All proposals (offers) shall be submitted in the quantities and format specified below:

L.5.1 STANDARD FORM 33, SOLICITATION, OFFER, AND AWARD

The Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer, and Award, (SF 33) is being used for this solicitation. This form is used by the Government as a request for proposal and upon submission by the Offeror it becomes the Offeror's proposal. As such it is an offer which can be unilaterally accepted by the Contracting Officer and awarded on said SF 33. The offer and acceptance form the contract. Therefore, the following points must be strictly adhered to by the Offeror in submitting the proposal.

(a) The SF 33 must be executed by a representative of the Offeror authorized to commit the Offeror to contractual obligations. The authority to sign a proposal, but not an offer, subject to unilateral acceptance and award, is not sufficient authorization to sign the SF 33.

(b) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THE SF 33 OR THE RELATED PAGES WHICH ARE A PART OF THE ENCLOSED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL PACKET. You are to complete those parts which require items such as prices, place of performance, etc., when such items are called for in the enclosed request for proposal. A place is provided for you to insert such information.

Three- (3) originally executed (i.e., with original signatures) copies of the Standard Form of contract (SF 33) and one (1) copy of Section K fully executed shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.2 OFFEROR'S TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

AMENDMENT 0005

Past Performance Report

Procurement Activity and address
 Contracting Officer Name
 Contracting Officer Telephone Number
 Contracting Officer Address
 Technical Point of Contact Name (must possess specialized technical knowledge of the high-performance computing components acquired.)
 Technical Point of Contact Telephone Number
 Technical Point of Contact Address
 Type of Contract
 Award Price
 Final Price
 Award Date

Description of Experience

L.7 COST REALISM

An offer is presumed to represent an Offeror's best efforts to respond to the solicitation. Any inconsistency, whether real or apparent, between promised performance and cost or price, should be explained in the proposal. For example, if the intended use of new and innovative production techniques is the basis for an abnormally low estimate, the nature of these techniques and their impact on cost/price should be explained; or, if a business policy decision has been made to absorb a portion of the estimated cost, that should be stated in the proposal. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, may raise a fundamental issue of understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of the Offeror's financial ability to perform the contract, and may be grounds for rejection of the offer. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the Offeror.

L.8 FACILITY PROPOSAL

The Offeror will submit a facility proposal that consists of facility sub-proposals for each site that is proposed. The facility proposal must be prepared using the Times New Roman font in 12 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format "section - page", where section is the Section C section number, and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

Each facility sub-proposal must not exceed 30 pages in length (15 sheets of paper when printed double sided) for each site that is proposed (e.g., the facility proposal for one Government-provided site and one Contractor-provided site must not exceed 60 pages in total length). Contractors must provide any mechanical, electrical, structural, plumbing, HVAC, architectural, and site drawings in electronic format as AutoCAD files readable by Autodesk on a CD-Rom as well as in the same 8.5" by 11" hardcopy format as above in an Appendix to their proposal; the hardcopy pages in these Appendices will not be counted in the 30-page limit per site. The final revision of the facility proposal must be provided as a complete document, not as change pages. In addition, a change document must be provided in which all deleted text is marked with a "strikeout" (i.e., ~~strikeout~~) and added or modified text is yellow color-highlighted (i.e., yellow-color highlighted).

Provide a facility proposal that meets the requirements described in section C.5.6.

If any of the Government-provided facilities described in Section C.11 are to be used, the Contractor must provide the following for each facility:

AMENDMENT 0005

- 1) A detailed site-preparation plan that describes facility modifications, with schedule, that are required for initial equipment installation and any subsequent equipment transitions during the base contract. Contractors that propose to use BLDR-1 and/or BLDR-2 must provide a detailed description of site modifications, including cost estimate, so that credits can be provided to the Government for work to be completed by GSA. Contractors that propose to use GRBLT must provide a detailed description of site modifications, including cost estimates for Phase II site preparation.
- 2) A plan indicating expected usage of facility resources (e.g., raised floor space, peak power load, peak cooling load) as a function of time throughout the base contract
- 3) Identification of any additional resources required by the Contractor's proposal that are above those projected by the Government to be available and a plan indicating how these resources would be obtained
- 4) Equipment characteristics of each major component, including:
 - Equipment dimensions, weight, and quantity
 - Cooling requirements and cooling design
 - Power requirements and power distribution design
- 5) Analysis of each proposed system configuration to demonstrate sufficient UPS capacity graceful system shutdown
- 6) Identification of any site-restricted GFE equipment that the Contractor proposes to use, including any refurbishment or enhancement that is needed
- 7) Identification of any unrestricted GFE equipment from another Government site that the Contractor proposes to use. Proposed shipping arrangements should be identified, including procedures for its return at the end of the contract.
- 8) Any additional facility enhancements, with implementation plan, that the Contractor proposes in order to assure robust operation

If any Contractor-provided facility is proposed, the Contractor must provide the following in the facility proposal:

- 1) A copy of the site operating plan, including facility management procedures
- 2) A copy of the physical security procedures
- 3) A statement of how NOAA remote computer operators would be informed of deteriorating facility conditions such as rising room temperatures or an air handler failure
- 4) A copy of the facility's disaster recovery plan
- 5) One-line (logic) diagrams of the electrical service and cooling service
- 6) An energy density (watts per square foot) projection plotted over the contract life
- 7) A spreadsheet listing the type and age of facility equipment to be used. Examples are: UPS systems and power conditioners, chillers, heat exchangers, air handlers
- 8) A copy of the contract statement of work for any commercial facility management company used, or the equivalent if performed in-house. Preventative maintenance schedules, proactive inspections, and quality assurance methods are examples
- 9) A brief (2-3 paragraphs) description of the procedures used to acquire off-site emergency service, including minimum response times and escalation procedures
- 10) A statement (one paragraph) as to how coverage and services are made available after-hours and on holidays
- 11) A statement (paragraph) projecting the minimum UPS power protection period (survival time) that is required, when utility power fails, in order to assure graceful system shutdown. Also provide a maintenance schedule on UPS systems that would address any UPS deterioration.

- 12) A brief description of the fire protection systems and certification standards
- 13) A brief description of any automated facility controls such as computer-managed failover systems
- 14) A bio (curriculum vitae) of the facility manager's experience and training
- 15) A description of facility alterations and changes to be made to the offered space if the Offeror is successful
- 16) A list of all unrestricted Government furnished equipment to be used, including a schedule for shipment to the site and procedures for its return at the end of the contract
- 17) The physical street address and a brief description of the facility's campus/site location

The Government reserves the right to conduct site visits of all proposed Contractor-provided facilities during the procurement evaluation. During the site visit, the Government may inspect:

- 1) Mechanical rooms
- 2) Raised floor plenums, drainage, cable tracks, labeling, and management
- 3) Network cabling protection and redundancy provisions
- 4) Power and cooling distribution and control systems
- 5) Logs of equipment failures, corrective actions taken and maintenance results
- 6) Preventive maintenance schedules
- 7) Emergency plans, and results of drills
- 8) Testing procedures and schedules
- 9) Training provided to facility managers, maintenance and physical security personnel
- 10) Safety and fire protection equipment and operation
- 11) Any other relevant materials that will enable the government to assess the reliability and safety of the facility
- 12) Physical Security

L.9 DRAWINGS AND VISIT TO GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED FACILITIES

The Government offers all interested Offerors the following opportunities for obtaining additional information about the Government-provided facilities that are described in Section C.11:

Request for Facility Drawings

Interested Offerors may obtain a copy of available facility drawings for these facilities by downloading the designated forms located on the public website and completing the forms, including signature of an authorized official of the company. Contractors must send these completed forms (which include GSA Document Security Order PBS 3490.1) for the GSA-controlled facilities, BLDR-1 and BLDR-2, and other forms, as specified at the website, <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>, for the Princeton facilities) to the following address for receipt no later than close of business (COB) on Friday, January 21, 2005:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
 U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
 Acquisition Management Division
 1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Procedures for obtaining facility drawings for Princeton and NASA/GSFC are indicated at the following web site: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>

Visit to Proposed Facilities

Offerors may send designated Contractor personnel to attend meetings on the following dates and times in order to tour the six facilities and to ask facility questions that are relevant to the sites being toured:

Princeton, NJ (PRTN).....	February 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM EST
Largo, MD (LARGO).....	February 16, 2005 at 10:00 AM EST
Fairmont, WV	February 17, 2005 at 1:00 PM EST
Boulder, CO (BLDR-1 and BLDR-2).....	February 22, 2005 at 10:00 AM MST
<u>Greenbelt, MD (GRBLT)</u>	<u>March 17, 2005 at 1:00 PM EST</u>

The Government will make every effort to answer all appropriate questions posed by Contractor personnel during the visit or as follow-up questions and answers posted on the Q&A public website.

In order to meet its physical security requirements for background checks, the Government requires Contractors to complete and submit the forms provided on the website, <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>, for each site to be visited. These forms, which will be needed to complete background checks of all designated personnel that expect to attend these site visits, must be received by the Government at the above address no later than January 21, 2005. The Government reserves the right to deny admission for any personnel that fail to pass the Government's background check.

L.10 PRE-AWARD SURVEY

The Government reserves the right for a survey team to visit the Offeror's facility(s) for the purpose of determining the technical and financial ability to perform. A current financial statement and other data pertinent to this purpose should be available at the time the team makes the visit. The team will also consider the technical and financial ability of proposed subcontractors. Examples of the type of technical, financial and other capability matters the team will-evaluate are (1) past experience with firm, (2) financial strength, (3) facilities, (4) ability to meet required delivery schedule, (5) subcontracting, (6) manpower availability and labor relations, (7) management controls and (8) any other areas pertinent to this offer.

L.11 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

- (3) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be appropriate and customary in the commercial marketplace; and
- (4) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be in the best interest of the United States.
- (d) The Offeror's proposal of financing terms shall include the following:
 - (1) The proposed contractual language describing the contract financing (see FAR 32.202-2 for appropriate definitions of types of payments); and
 - (2) A listing of the earliest date and greatest amount at which each contract financing payment may be payable and the amount of each delivery payment. Any resulting contract shall provide that no contract financing payment shall be made at any earlier date or in a greater amount than shown in the Offeror's listing.
- (e) The Offeror's proposed prices and financing terms shall be evaluated to determine the cost to the United States of the proposal using the interest rate and delivery scheduled specified elsewhere in this solicitation.

L.22 NOTICE TO OFFERORS

This Solicitation is issued pursuant to a U.S. Department of Commerce Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Project Agreement. The full text of the Project Agreement for this acquisition is located at the following web site: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>

L.23 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may submit more than one proposal, as long as one proposal satisfies all of the mandatory requirements of the solicitation. As a minimum, one of the proposals submitted must be complete. The alternate proposal(s) shall be in an abbreviated form following the same section format, but providing only those sections which differ in any way from those contained in the original proposal. Each proposal will include cost tables indicating the complete range of pricing options. In the case of price/cost options for a given configuration, an alternate proposal will not be required. If alternate proposals are submitted, such alternatives will be clearly labeled and identified on the cover page of each separate document. The reason for each alternate and its comparative benefits shall be explained. Each proposal submitted will be evaluated on its own merits. Alternate proposals may be no more than 100 pages in length.

Offerors shall provide notation in its alternate proposal(s) indicating where changes have been made with respect to the original proposal. Change notation should be hierarchical in its implementation. For example, "strikeout" or margin "replacement" type notation is suitable for minor changes; simple highlighting of the changed proposal areas is acceptable for large change; entire numbered sections replacement may be noted at the heading of the section.

Alternate proposals may be submitted within 10 calendar days from the proposal closing date and time specified in L.5, SUBMISSION OF OFFERS. Alternate proposals received during this 10 day period will only be accepted if the primary proposal was received by the closing date and time specified. Offerors are to state its intention of submitting alternate proposals with submission of its initial proposal. In addition, Offerors are to include with its initial proposal submission, a synopsis of its alternate proposal(s).